



**U.S. Department of Justice**

**Brett L. Tolman**

**United States Attorney  
District of Utah**

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 7, 2007**

**CONTACT: MELODIE RYDALCH**  
**801-325-3206**  
**801-243-6475 (CELL)**

**PRESS RELEASE**  
***GRAND JURY RETURNS INDICTMENT***  
***CHARGING JEFFS WITH***  
***UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID PROSECUTION***

SALT LAKE CITY – A federal grand jury in Salt Lake City returned a one-count indictment Wednesday morning charging Warren Steed Jeffs, age 51, of Hildale, Utah, with one count of unlawful flight to avoid prosecution.

Announcing the indictment are Brett L. Tolman, United States Attorney for Utah, and Timothy J. Fuhrman, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI in Salt Lake City.

The charge carries a potential maximum penalty of five years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine. Defendants charged in indictments are presumed innocent unless or until proven guilty in court. Federal prosecutors are not planning to bring Jeffs to federal court for an arraignment on the indictment until state charges against him are resolved. A federal detainer has been filed with authorities in Washington County. The civil case involving property seized when Jeffs was apprehended, which is pending in federal court in Nevada, will continue in Las Vegas. However,

parties to that action are considering options in light of the new criminal indictment in Utah.

The Washington County Attorney charged Jeffs with two felony counts of first degree rape as an accomplice on April 5, 2006, and a warrant was issued for his arrest. Attempts to locate Jeffs were unsuccessful. A federal UFAP complaint was filed and a warrant issued for his arrest in late April 2006. The FBI later added Jeffs to its Ten Most Wanted list.

The indictment returned this morning alleges that from about April 5, 2006, until Aug. 28, 2006, Jeffs traveled through states (interstate commerce) to avoid the felony prosecution in Utah.

Brett L. Tolman, United States Attorney for Utah, said today that Jeffs' actions to flee the state to avoid prosecution must be punished. "If this charge is not pursued in federal court, Mr. Jeffs' decision to flee the state in a deliberate attempt to avoid felony charges would go unpunished. This is criminal conduct that I believe warrants federal prosecution," Tolman said.

"Significant local, state, and federal law enforcement resources, including listing him on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list, were expended in an attempt to locate Mr. Jeffs, who was able to evade arrest for several months," Tolman said. "If ever there were a time to pursue a federal prosecution using this statute, this is that time."

Tolman said a potential federal charge against Jeffs has been under consideration by his office for several months. With the state charges in place, there was time to process the evidence and present the case to a federal grand jury when a decision to move forward was finalized.

Timothy J. Fuhrman, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI in Salt Lake City, said, "Today's indictment of Warren Jeffs on Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution charges marks another step in the federal government's attempts to bring justice to Mr. Jeffs. The FBI will continue to devote all necessary resources to achieve a successful prosecution of Mr. Jeffs on these charges."

###